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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A tripod joint comprising:

an outer joint part (14) with a first longitudinal axis (A11) and having an inner recess (14) and three uniformly circumferentially distributed recesses (15) which widen said inner recess (14) and which form pairs of circumferentially opposed tracks (16);

a tripod star (12) with a second longitudinal axis (A12) and having a hub (17) and three uniformly circumferentially distributed tripod arms (19) which are arranged radially at said hub (17) and which each form an arm head (21) with a spherical surface portion (22); and

a roller assembly (13), on each of the arm heads (21), each of the roller assemblies (13) being guided in one of the recesses (15), and each roller assembly (13) comprising an annular roller carrier (23), bearing needles (24) rotating on the roller carrier (23), ~~and rollers~~ a roller (25) which are is rotatably supported on the bearing needles (24),

wherein the roller carriers (23), on their inner faces, each comprise a cylindrical arm contact face (40) and, on their outer faces, a cylindrical needle contact face (41),

wherein the roller carriers (23) are arranged on the arm heads (21) so as to be pivotable and displaceable along an arm axis (AZ) and wherein the rollers (25) roll on the tracks (16) with roller axes (AR) which are substantially axis-normal relative to the first longitudinal axis (A11),

wherein the roller carriers (23), on their outer faces, each comprise stop collars ~~(38, 39)~~ which delimit the needle contact face (41), and which are held with an axial displacement clearance (SA) in the direction of the roller axes (AR) between axial securing members ~~(26, 27) in such a way that they are secured against being lost relative to the rollers (25) and~~ to permit translation of the roller carrier during joint articulation along the needle contact face over the axial displacement clearance (SA).

wherein the roller carriers (23), on their inner faces, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A11), at least on the radial inside end, each comprise cylindrical

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projections {42} which, with reference to the roller axes (AR), increase the axial length of the arm contact faces {40} beyond the extension of the needle contact faces {41},
and

wherein the axial securing members comprise at least one securing ring which engages an inner annular groove in the rollers.

2. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 1, wherein, on the roller carriers {23}, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A11), on their radial outside end, the arm contact faces {40} and the needle contact faces {41} are flush with each other.

3. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 1, wherein the roller carriers {23}, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A1'1), on the radial outside end, each comprise cylindrical projections {43} which, with reference to the roller axes (AR), increase the axial length of the arm contact faces {40} beyond the extension of the needle contact faces {41}.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 1, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection {42} and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that, with a joint articulation angle of at least 27°, the spherical surface portions {22} of the arm heads {21} are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces {40} of the roller carriers {23}.

8. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 2, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection {42} and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that,

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with a joint articulation angle of at least 27° , the spherical surface portions {22} of the arm heads {21} are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces {40} of the roller carriers {23}.

9. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 3, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection {42} and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that, with a joint articulation angle of at least 27° , the spherical surface portions {22} of the arm heads {21} are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces {40} of the roller carriers {23}.

10. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles {24}.

11. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 2, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles {24}.

12. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 3, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles {24}.

13. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles {24}.

14. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 7, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles {24}.

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15. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 10% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

16. (currently amended) A tripod joint according to claim 7, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 10% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.